

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/188 W

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P R 081518Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5110

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12899

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS, ENRG, ECON, ETRN, XF, SA, IZ

SUBJECT: MEES ISSUE ON ARAB OIL REDUCTION/EMBARGO

REF: BEIRUT 12853 AND 12860

1. WE ARE AWARE THAT MEES ARTICLE REPORTED IN REFTELS
CONTAINS SOME INFO THAT CONFLICTS WITH INFO FROM OTHER
SOURCES, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO POSITIONS OF
IRAQ AND JAPAN AND WITH RESPECT SAUDI CONDITIONS
FOR GAINING EXEMPT STATUS (JIDDA'S 4852). FOR WHAT
IT IS WORTH, THEREFORE, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT
ARTICLE'S AUTHOR SEYMOUR (WHO HAS A GOOD REPUTATION
FOR ACCURATE REPORTING) INFORMED US CONFIDENTIALLY
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THAT HIS SOURCE WAS YAMANI PERSONALLY.

2. SHOULD BE FURTHER NOTED THAT IF, AS MEES INDICATED, IRAQ WILL CUT PRODUCTION 25 PERCENT, REDUCTION MAY BE AT BASRA BECAUSE PIPELINE FROM KIRKUK TO MED OPERATED AT 1.2 MILLION BPD RATE, SLIGHTLY ABOVE RATED CAPACITY, ON NOV 7. IRAQIS REPORTEDLY TOLD TERMINALS NOT RPT NOT TO EXPORT TO UNFRIENDLY DESTINATIONS BUT TO EXPORT ALL THEY CAN. IMPRESSION IS THAT IRAQIS WILL NOT RPT NOT REDUCE KIRKUK FLOW ON POLITICAL GROUNDS ALTHOUGH DAMAGE TO BANIAS TEMINAL WILL CAUSE EXPORTS TO VARY UNTIL REPAIRS MADE. IN ADDITION TORUTRED ARGUMENTS AGAINST REDUCTION BEING BROADCAST FROM BAGHDAD, IRAQIS CAN CITE REDUCED EXPORTS DURING 24-DAY BANIAS CLOSURE.
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